



ANNUAL

13

FEB '11



ACTION

COMICS.



LEX LUTHOR'S NEW BOSS: DARKSEID!

by PAUL CORNELL and MARCO RUDY



PLUS: LEX VS. RA'S AL GHUL!

by CORNELL and ED BENES

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YOUNG LEX LUTHOR in:

FATHER BOX

PAUL CORNELL writer MARCO RUOY artist

VAL STAPLES colorist JOHN J. HILL letterer

ETHAN VAN SCHWER & HI-FI cover

WIL MOSS assoc. editor MATT IDELSON editor

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

MANY YEARS AGO.

BORN IN SMALLVILLE BUT BELIEVING HIMSELF SUPERIOR, HE RECENTLY MURDERED HIS FATHER TO ESCAPE SMALL-TOWN AMERICA AND BUILD AN EMPIRE ON HIS GENIUS. HE HAS VOWED THAT THE WORLD WILL ONE DAY EMBRACE HUMANITY'S CHAMPION... AND FUTURE RULER...

Lex Luthor

DON'T
TRY TO STOP
ME!





WITHOUT
THIS JOB--

--I
HAVE NO
FUTURE!

ANOTHER
RECESSION
CASUALTY.

AFTER
THEY LEAP, I
GUESS THERE'S
NOBODY CAN
SAVE 'EM.





WHO IS
STILL MAKING
MONEY?

IN GOTHAM
THEY GOT CATS
AND HATS AND
BATS.

BUT HERE
WE JUST GOT
RATS WHO GOT
TOO FAT.

THERE'S
NO MONEY,
THERE'S NO
GLAMOUR.

THERE
ARE HOMES
UNDER THE
HAMMER.

AND
THERE'S
NOTHIN' IN
THE NIGHT--

ANOTHER
SMALL GLASS OF
WATER, AND MAKE
IT SNAPPY.

THERE'S

NOTHIN'
IN THE

THE
GOTHAM
CAT
HATS
AND
BATS

NO MONEY IN GOTHAM



"EVERYONE
LIKES GUM."

WHY DID
YOU SINGLE
ME OUT? I'M
JUST--

--CASING
THE JOINT.

OR THAT'S
WHAT YOU'D
PROBABLY
CALL IT.

YOU
DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING,
KID.

AND YOU
SHOULD GET
OUT OF HERE
BEFORE--

I
"DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING"...?

YOU
LOOK LIKE
A MANAGER
HERE--

--BUT YOU'RE
AN UNDERCOVER
REPORTER.

WITH
THE DAILY
PLANET.

AH, PERRY
WHITE, I TAKE
IT?

WHAT--?!
HOW DID
YOU--?

MY
NAME IS LEX
LUTHOR.

AND
IT WAS
EASY...



YOU CARE ABOUT A STRANGER CAUSING A FUSS, FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, OBVIOUSLY.

SO: POLICE/REPORTER?

POLICE WOULD LET IT HAPPEN.

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER HERE THAT TAKES CRIME SERIOUSLY IS THE PLANET.

LEAD BYLINE: PERRY WHITE.

CALLING HIMSELF "PETEV," SLOPPY.

WHAT SORT OF FOOL DOESN'T READ THE PAPERS BEFORE TRAVELING?

HOW DID YOU WORK ALL THAT OUT?

ONLY, LISTEN, IT WASN'T JUST ME I WAS WORRIED ABOUT, KID, THERE'S SOMETHING BEHIND THIS PLACE, SOMETHING I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO--

PETEV, BRUNO WANTS TO SEE--

--HEY, WHO'S THIS?

LEX LUTHOR, OLD FRIEND OF PETEV.

YOU KNOW PETEV. HE LIKES TO HELP PEOPLE OUT.

HE SAID HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET ME AN INTRODUCTION, THAT BRUNO MIGHT HAVE A JOB FOR ME.



WHAT
DOES THAT
KID THINK
HE'S **DOING**.
PETEV?

BRUNO,
I HAVE NO
IDEA. HE JUST
EXPECTED ME
TO **LIE** FOR
HIM!

YEAH,
AND TO ME!
I FIND THAT
OFFENSIVE.
HOW ABOUT
YOU?

WELL, THE
FOLLIES OF
YOUTH...

IT'S TV'S
FAULT, BUT THE
KID KNOWS MY
FIRST NAME
NOW, SO--

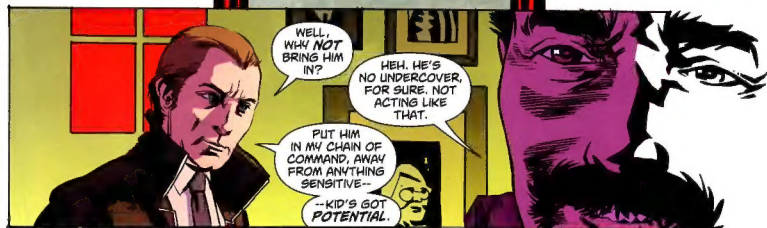
AW,
COME ON, BRUNO,
HE'S JUST SOME
WANNABE!

MEANING
HE'LL SAY
ANYTHING TO
ANYONE.

YEAH,
AND HEV...

...THAT
SCARES ME
TOO!

BUT
I DON'T
KNOW...





SIX WEEKS LATER.

TV, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WONDERING--

WHAT IS IT, LEX?

YES, I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT. NOBODY ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE NOTICED IT, NOT EVEN PETEY.

BOOKISH JOKE OF MINE, TV, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I'LL GET BACK TO THE BORING PAPER-WORK.

DOOR? WHAT DOOR?

WHAT IS THAT DOOR?

AN HOUR LATER.

GONNA TAKE A WHIZZ.

YES, THANKS FOR THAT.

BOOOOOOMMMMMMM

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AN HOUR LATER.

GONNA TAKE A WHIZZ.

YES, THANKS FOR THAT.

BOOOOOOMMMMMMM!



AH!!! THIS
IS THE "YOUTH" YOU
MENTIONED, DESAAD---
YOU LET HIM SEE
THE DOOR---

--NOW
LET HIM SEE
US!!

WHAT--
--WHAT
ARE YOU?!

I AM
DARKSEID.

YOU
LOOK AT ME
AND THINK
"I'M NOT LIKE
HIM!"

YOU WOULD
BE CORRECT! WE
HAVE NOTHING IN
COMMON!!

YOU'RE
A MAN--

--AND
I--

--AM A
GOD!!

FRZZZZZ

EEEEEEEEEE!!

BUT,
YES, YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS!

MANY
QUESTIONS!!
THAT IS THE
"NATURE" OF
MAN!

HO HO
HO!



YES, I HAVE QUESTIONS.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO WITH BRUNO MANNHEIM?



INTERESTING!!

I KILL A MAN IN FRONT OF YOU, TO SEE HOW YOU'D REACT--

--AND YOU REACT NOT AT ALL!!

I'VE SEEN WORSE. AND THAT'S MY NEXT QUESTION--

WHY IS A GOD--

--INTERESTED IN MY REACTIONS?

AH--

--DESAAD WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU!!



READY YOUR MIND!

THERE'S A DANGER IT MIGHT BE BLOWN!!

I AM GOING TO SHOW YOU--



APOCALIPS!

IT'S...
IT'S...

...WONDERFUL.

SO THIS IS
WHAT LIES UNDER THE
SURFACE REALITY OF
METROPOLIS.

THIS
IS THE TRUTH
BEHIND...**ALL**
REALITY.

IN
THAT IT IS
POWER,
YES.

BRUNO
MANNHEIM
FOUND IT SO.
HE BELONGS
TO ME.

HIS
"INTERGANG" AIDS
MY QUEST IN
METROPOLIS--

--FOR **POWER**
ABSOLUTE!!

NUMBERS
THAT CAN MAKE
THE WORLD!

THE
"WORD" ITSELF!!
IT CAN BE FOUND
IN THE FABRIC OF
THAT CITY!!

REALLY?

BUT THAT'S...
NOTHING TO DO
WITH ME.

INDEED--!

--I ALLOW
SUCH AS YOU
TO SEE THE DOOR,
TO UNLOCK IT--

--ONLY
SO YOU MAY
FULFILL YOUR
"POTENTIAL"!!

TO SERVE
DARKSEID!!

YOU
WILL START IN THE
LABORATORY--

--MY NEW
SCIENTWISTER!

AND...
IF...IF I DO
WELL--

--WILL YOU
LET ME GO...
HOME?

TO...AH...
SERVE YOU
THERE?

HO HO
HO!

REJOICE,
"LEX LUTHOR"--

--THIS IS
YOUR HOME
NOW!!

ANOTHER SIX
WEEKS LATER.

MOKKARI, THERE'S
SOMETHING I'VE BEEN
WONDERING--

WHAT IS
IT, LEX?

IF
ONE HAD
AN IDEA...
FOR A NEW
WEAPON...

BUT
I DON'T KNOW
HOW THINGS WORK
HERE. I'LL GET
BACK TO THE
DRUDGERY--

NO! YOU
MUST TELL
ME!

I THOUGHT
YOU HAD BEEN
CONSTRUCTING
A PROJECT OF
YOUR OWN!

LEX, THAT
IS THE ONLY TIME
THE GUARDS ALLOW
US OUT OF THE
SCIENTISTICON--!

--TO SHOW
SOME NEW
DISCOVERY
TO GREAT
DARKSEID!

TELL US
NOW: WHAT
IS IT?!

BUT...IT
DOESN'T EVEN
HAVE A POWER
SOURCE.

YOU'VE
DENIED ME
ACCESS TO
THOSE.

FOR SOME
REASON.





I HAVE
SLAIN THE
MASTER!

MY
SUPPORTERS
RISE FROM EVERY
CORNER!

ANY OF
YOU WHO WOULD
FOLLOW A NEW
KING, A KIND
KING--

--BOW
YOUR--!

--HEADS--?

BUT THAT...
RIPS APART...
EXISTENCE...

NOTHING
COULD...

YOU HAVE
"SUPPORTERS"?

AFTER
SIX WEEKS?

NO.

THIS
IS JUST
YOU.
CHILD.

DO
YOU HAVE
ANYTHING
TO SAY?





YOU UNDERESTIMATED ME.

YOU HELD ME BACK.

I'VE PROVED YOU WRONG.

I WON'T PLEAD.
YOU CAN KILL ME NOW.

KILL YOU?!

IF YOU'RE GOOD!!

CAN YOU NOT ACKNOWLEDGE ANYONE AS YOUR SUPERIOR?

NOT... NOT AN ALIEN...

WHO SEEKS DOMINION OVER... ALL MANKIND...

NO--

--NOT ANYONE.

BUT I TIRE OF YOU NOW!

KALIBAK! GUARDS--!

YOU--?!





PLAN TWENTY-SEVEN.

FLAM

FLAM FLAM FLAM FLAM FLAM

"...A SPIRITUAL
JOURNEY."



"I WON'T
TROUBLE YOU WITH
THE DETAILS."

"I RETURNED
WITH..."



"...NEW
INSPIRATION.
BUT..."



SIX MORE
WEEKS LATER.

...PERRY,
THERE'S SOMETHING
I'VE BEEN
WONDERING...

WHAT IS
IT, LEX?

SINCE
I RETURNED, I'VE
APPLIED FOR TWENTY
PATENTS AND RECEIVED
FORTY MILLION
DOLLARS IN VENTURE
CAPITAL.

YOU'VE
GONE PUBLIC WITH
YOUR STORY. INTERSANG
IS REELING WITH ALL
THE ARRESTS (THOUGH
BRUNO GOT AWAY)...

...SO I
GUESS I HAVE
YOU TO THANK
THAT NOBODY'S
COME AFTER
ME.

BUT
STILL--

--DO YOU
REALLY THINK
I'D WANT TO
TAKE A JOB
AT THE DAILY
PLANET?

AT
ANY LEVEL
BENEATH,
SAY, OWNING
IT?

SOME...
SERIOUS
PEOPLE...THINK
I'M WORTH
MORE THAN
THAT.

LEX...

I THINK
YOU'RE WORTH...
ONE HELL OF A LOT,
KID. I'M MOVING
UP AT THE PAPER
NOW. JOB OR NO
JOB--

--I'D LIKE
TO SEE YOU FOR
A BEER EVERY NOW
AND THEN. CHECK
IN ON WHAT YOU'RE
DOIN'.

WHO
KNOWS--

"--MAYBE ONE DAY WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT WEIRD STUFF MANNHEIM WAS HIDING."

SO YOU THINK LUTHOR WILL SEEK THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION, MASTER?

IS THAT WHY YOU ARRANGED HIS ESCAPE?

NO, DESAAD--

--HE HAS THE ASPECT OF THE FATHER-SLAYER!! HE WILL NOT BE DOMINATED!

I RECOGNIZE THAT CREED! THAT IS WHAT I WAS TESTING IN HIM!

HE WILL CHURN UP THE "POND" OF THE CITY! HE WILL BE ITS BIGGEST "FISH!" YOUR "INTERGANG" CAN HIDE BETTER IN MUDDIED WATERS!!

THE ONLY QUESTION IS-- WILL HIS INTELLECT ALWAYS HOLD BACK HIS NEED?!

TODAY IT MIGHT!

BUT ONE DAY--

--HE WILL TAKE THE BAIT SET BY A GOD!

THIS IS THE PROPHECY OF DARKSEID!!



AH. YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE WE'RE "FRIENDS"--

--BECAUSE YOU ONCE EMPLOYED ME TO SAVE YOUR OWN HIDE?

KID--



--DON'T CALL ME THAT!

DON'T ACT AS IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME, WHITE!



YOU REALLY THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO THREATEN ME, LEX?

WOW, YOU STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

YOU'RE LUCKY I DIDN'T NAME YOU IN THE ARTICLE.

FROM MOB INTERN TO INDUSTRIAL GENIUS IN EIGHTEEN WEEKS--?

--THAT'S GOTTA BE A STORY, SOONER OR LATER.

WELL...

--THAT'S IF YOU GET TO PRINT IT.

WHO KNOWS--

--ONE OF THESE DAYS, I MIGHT HAVE A JOB FOR YOU--

--OR NOT.



YOU KNOW
WHAT?
YOU
COULD BE A
REALLY GOOD
KID.
YOU
STILL MIGHT
BE--

--IF ONLY
YOU'D JUST...TURN
EVERYTHING ABOUT
YOU 'ROUND ONE
NOTCH.

'CEPT
I'M NOT
SURE YOU
CAN.

DON'T
WALK AWAY
FROM ME,
WHITE!

I'LL SOON
BE THE ONLY
POWER IN THIS
TOWN!

SOMEDAY,
WHEN YOU'RE
WAITING FOR
SOMEONE TO
COME ALONG
AND SAVE
YOU--

--THAT'LL
BE ME! IF I
CHOOSE!

YOU
DO NOT
TURN YOUR
BACK--!

--ON
ME--

A man with brown hair, wearing a green jacket, stands on a rooftop or balcony, looking out over a city. He has his hand to his chin in a thoughtful pose. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a cloudy sky. A bright, glowing object, likely a plane, is seen flying through the air, leaving a white trail. A bright orange and yellow explosion or fire is visible in the lower right foreground. The scene is rendered in a comic book style with bold lines and a color palette dominated by greens, blues, and greys.

IS
THAT A
BIRD?

IS IT A
PLANE?

OH.

IT'S A
PLANE.

"I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD HAVE
LIKED ME VERY MUCH BACK THEN..."



...I WAS
YOUNG AND
WEAK.

SO,
HEY, A HAPPY
ENDING--

--YOU MADE
ME--

--SO I COULD
UNDERSTAND
YOU--

BUT EVEN
AT THAT AGE,
YOU SEE, I CAME
TO THE ATTENTION
OF COSMIC
BEINGS...

--LISTEN,
THERE'S ONE
QUESTION I
GOTTA ASK...

IN THE
STORY, IT WAS
ALL "MY HAIR
GOT IN MY
EYES..."

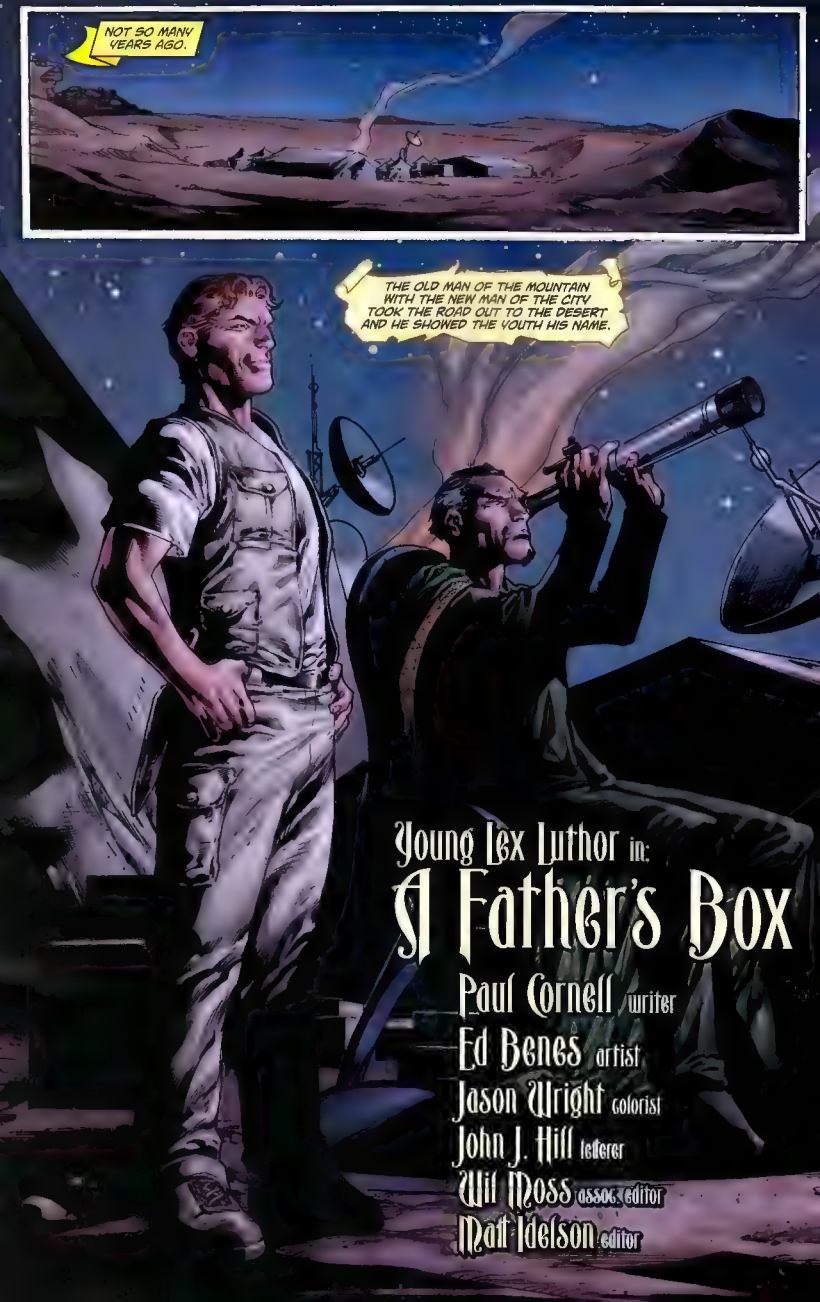
SO WHEN
DID--?

LOIS,
YOU FORGET
YOURSELF--

--THERE ARE
SOME THINGS
ABOUT ME--

--THAT
EVEN YOU
WILL NEVER
KNOW.

THE END



NOT SO MANY
YEARS AGO.

THE OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN
WITH THE NEW MAN OF THE CITY
TOOK THE ROAD OUT TO THE DESERT
AND HE SHOWED THE YOUTH HIS NAME.

Young Lex Luthor in:
A Father's Box

Paul Cornell writer

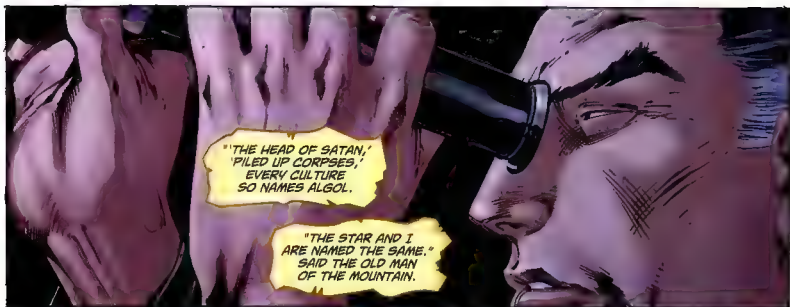
Ed Benes artist

Jason Wright colorist

John J. Hill letterer

Wil Moss assoc. editor

Matt Idelson editor



"THE HEAD OF SATAN,"
"PILED UP CORPSES,"
EVERY CULTURE
SO NAMES ALGOL.

"THE STAR AND I
ARE NAMED THE SAME,"
SAID THE OLD MAN
OF THE MOUNTAIN.



"BUT THE TRUTH IS,"
SAID THE YOUNG MAN,
OBSERVING GRAVELY,
THE STAR CALLED ALGOL--



--"THE WINKING RED STAR
SCARED THE ANCIENTS
BY ITS ECLIPSING
DARK COMPANION.

"THE DEVIL THEY SAW
REAL AND PRESENT
IS JUST A PLACE NOW,
WE MIGHT GO THERE."



"AND YET, LISTEN,
MY COMPANION,"
SAID THE OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN,
AS HE LED THE YOUTH TO WATER.--

--"BEFORE MANKIND,
BEFORE ALL MEMORY,
ALGOL PASSED CLOSER,
BROUGHT DISASTER.

"SO WHO'S TO SAY
WHERE LIES THE WISDOM
IN SUCH CAREFUL,
CARELESS THINKING?"



THEN THE OLD MAN
SHOWED HIS WISDOM,
NOW THE YOUTH
HE CALLED 'APPRENTICE.'

THEY HAD LIVED
SIX MONTHS TOGETHER.
RA'S AL GHUL
ENJOYING TEACHING.

THREE GREAT THINGS
ON THREE GREAT SUBJECTS
THIS TIME WITH RA'S
HAD TAUGHT THE YOUNG MAN...



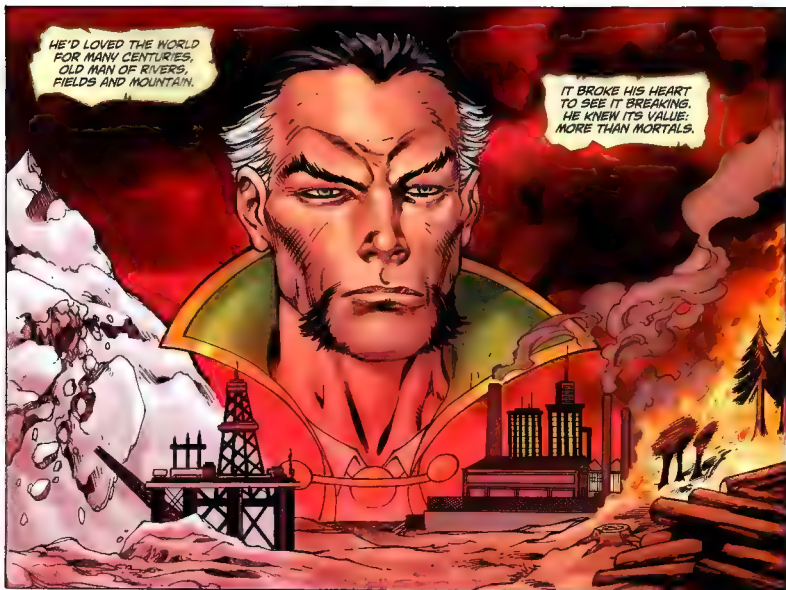
HE COULD TRUST HIM
WITH HIS PRINCESSES.
THE APPRENTICE WAS TOO COLD
TO IMPRESS THEM.



HE COULD TRUST HIM
NOT TO INTRIGUE.
HE WAS PLAIN
WITH ALL HIS FAILINGS.



HE COULD TRUST HIM
WITH HIS FORTUNE.
THE RICH MEN SHARED
DISDAIN FOR BAUBLES.



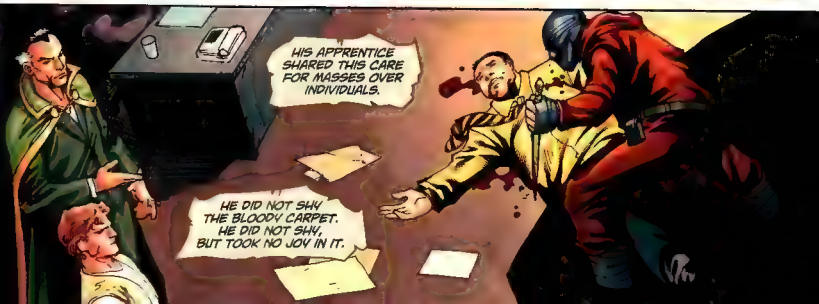
HE'D LOVED THE WORLD
FOR MANY CENTURIES.
OLD MAN OF RIVERS,
FIELDS AND MOUNTAIN.

IT BROKE HIS HEART
TO SEE IT BREAKING.
HE KNEW ITS VALUE:
MORE THAN MORTALS.



AND SO HE KILLED
AND KILLED AND KILLED
AND WOULD HAVE THINNED
THE POPULATION.

THROUGH MASS AND NOT
CAPRICIOUS KILLING.
THROUGH CULLING PEOPLES,
WITH THEIR LEADERS.



HIS APPRENTICE
SHARED THIS CARE
FOR MASSES OVER
INDIVIDUALS.

HE DID NOT SHY
THE BLOODY CARPET.
HE DID NOT SHY,
BUT TOOK NO JOY IN IT.



"I RECALL THE CHARMING FEEL OF
NORMAL, HEALTHY EARTHLY SEASONS,"
SAID THE OLD MAN
AT THE MASSACRE.

"IT HAS NOT BEEN
THUS FOR CENTURIES.
BAD WEATHER STILL SEEMS
SOMETHING FOREIGN--

--TO THOSE WHO DRIVE
THE WORLD TO RUIN.
AS IF THE FLOODS
IN OTHER COUNTRIES--

--WERE NORMAL FOR
THOSE CROWDED PLACES.
AND WHEN THEY HIT
AT HOME OR CLOSE TO IT--

--THEY DECLARE THOSE PLACES
ALIEN.
AND SO THEY DREAM US
ALL TO DYING."

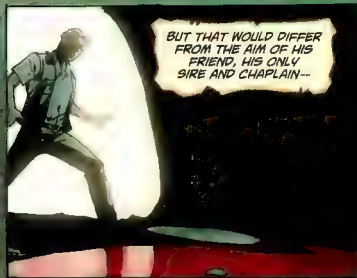
LUTHOR UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM,
AND SAW THE QUALITY
OF AL GHUL'S SOLUTION.
BUT HE PONDERED--



--AND HE WONDERED,
PERHAPS TO LEAD THE WORLD,
NOT KILL IT?
PERHAPS TO LEAD...



BUT THAT WOULD DIFFER
FROM THE AIM OF HIS
FRIEND, HIS ONLY
SIRE AND CHAPLAIN--

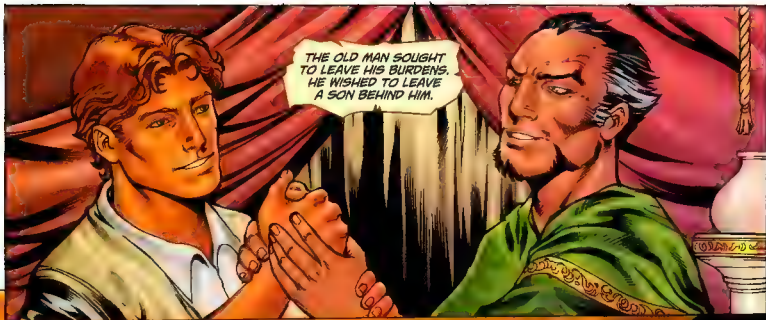


--WHO HAD GIVEN LUTHOR
FREEDOM.
WHO HAD GRACEFULLY
ALLOWED HIM--



--TO SHOW HIS WEAKNESS,
NEVER SHOWN.
TO ADMIT HIS FAULTS
AND THUS CONTROL THEM...





THE OLD MAN SOUGHT
TO LEAVE HIS BURDENS.
HE WISHED TO LEAVE
A SON BEHIND HIM.

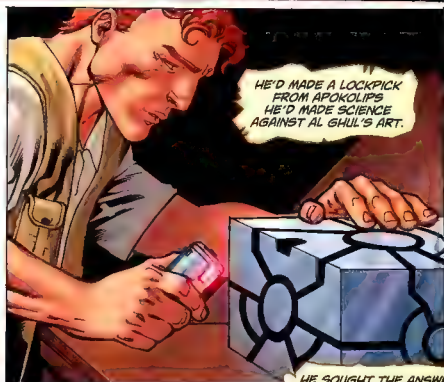
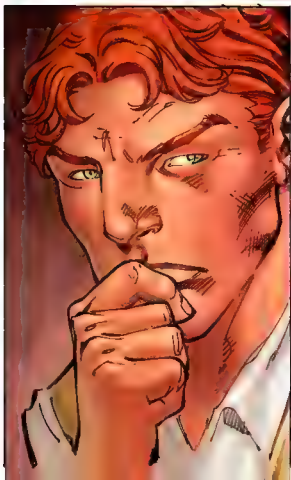
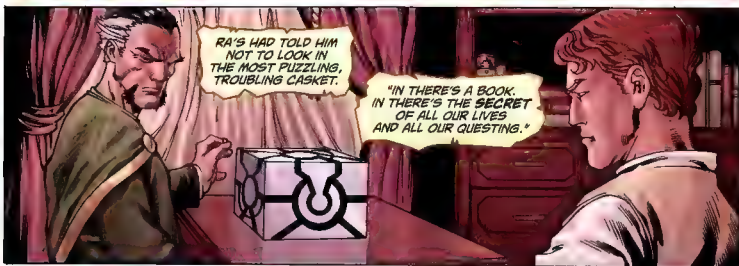
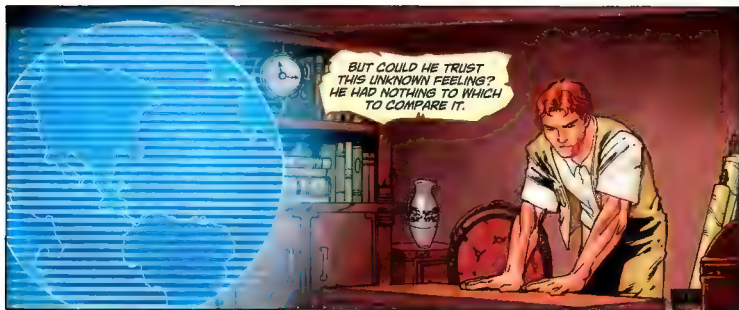


AN HEIR TO TEND
THE WORLD'S SALVATION.
TO LEAD THE LEAGUE
AND HEAD THE DEMON.



THE WORLD, IT WOULD
BE GIVEN FREELY.
SUCH SELFLESSNESS
WAS NEW TO LUTHOR.

HE NEVER HAD
HAD ANY FAVOR
THAT HE HAD NOT
CAUGHT OR TAKEN.



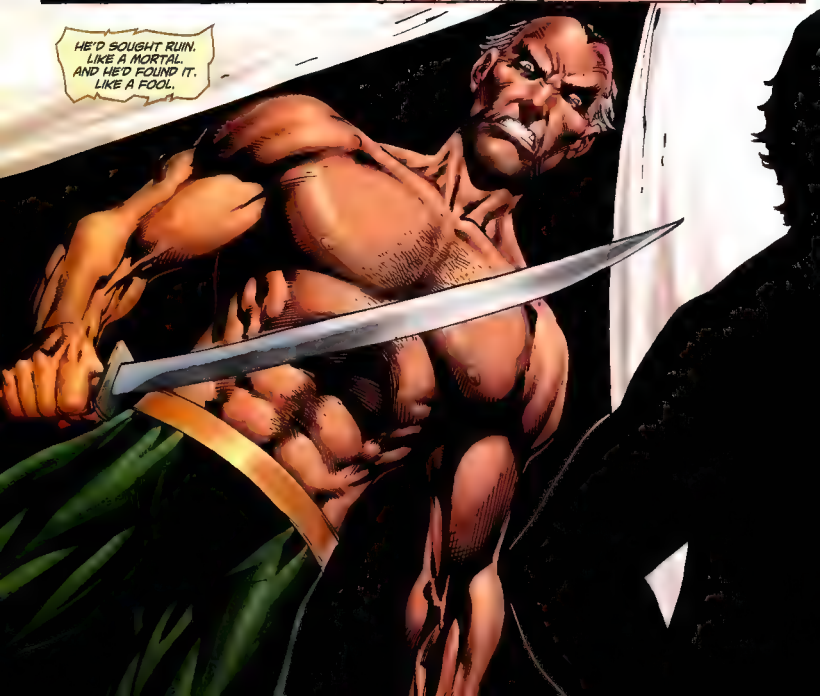
HE SOUGHT THE ANSWER TO THE ABSENCE THAT SAT INSIDE HIM LIKE A HEART.



HE SOUGHT SOME ANSWER.
HE'D NEVER FATHOM
EXACTLY WHAT
HE'D LOOKED THERE FOR.



SOMETIMES WHEN HE WAS
TORMENTED,
HE IN THE FUTURE
GUESSED IT MORE...



HE'D SOUGHT RUIN.
LIKE A MORTAL
AND HE'D FOUND IT.
LIKE A FOOL.



RA'S WAS EXPERT--



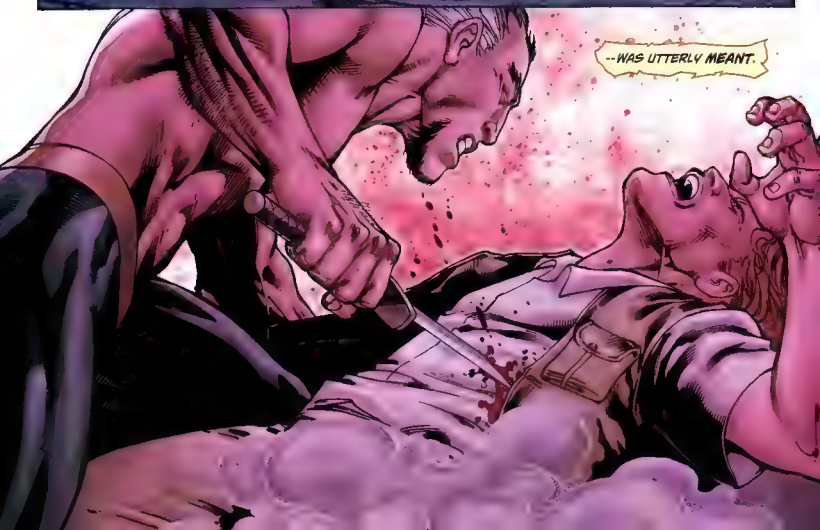
--IN THE CUTTING.

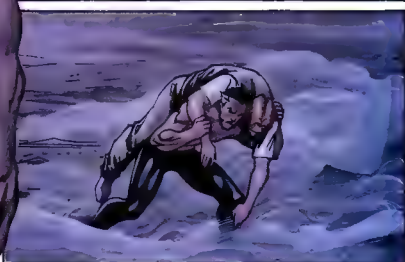


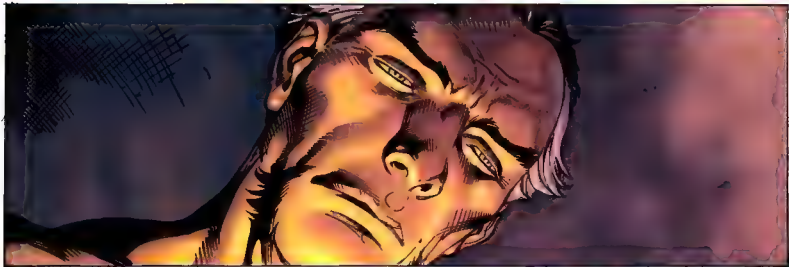
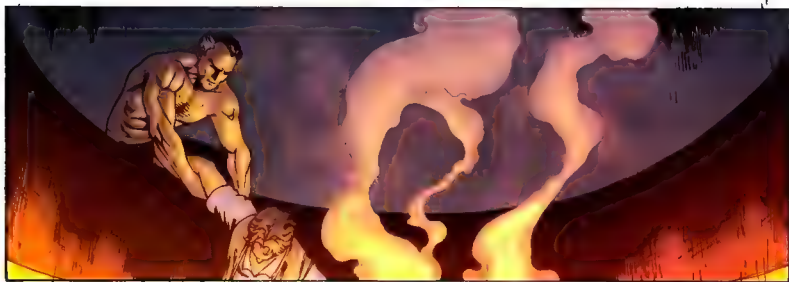
ALL HE DID--



--WAS UTTERLY MEANT.





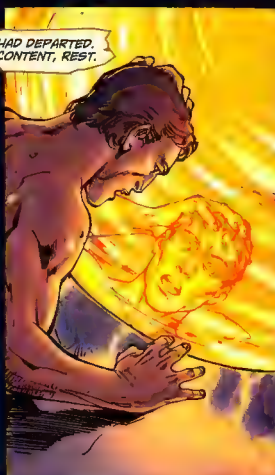


THE LAZARUS PIT.
THOUGH LUTHOR SOUGHT IT,
HE NEVER FOUND
THIS PLACE AGAIN.

A KIND OF DEATH
WITH LIFE IT BROUGHT HIM.
ECLIPSED, ENLIGHTENED,
ECLIPSED AGAIN.

HE HOPED THAT RA'S
WOULD STILL BE WAITING.
TO TELL HIM HE
HAD FAILED THE TEST.

BUT THE MASTER HAD DEPARTED.
WITH HIM POWER, CONTENT, REST.



FOR THE OLD MAN
KNEW FOR LUTHOR
LIFE WOULD PUNISH
WORSE THAN DEATH.



AND ALL THOSE FLAWS
THAT MIGHT HAVE SAVED HIM,
HAD HE KNOWN THEM,
SHOWN THEM, SEEN--

--WERE LOCKED UP IN
THAT MOMENT'S SECRETS.
BLAMED ON OTHERS--



--SAVE FOR
DREAMS.



The End

NOW AN ONGOING SERIES!

IT'S IN
YOUR BONES
AND ORGANS,
MR. JATTS.

I'M
AFRAID IT'S
INOPERABLE.
I'M VERY
SORRY.

WHAT?

AS BEST
WE CAN FIGURE,
YOU PROBABLY
CONTRACTED THE
ILLNESS OVER THE
COURSE OF
YEARS...

...AS A RESULT
OF **PROLONGED
EXPOSURE** TO THE
MATERIALS YOU
HANDLED DURING YOUR
CAREER IN THE
**METAHUMAN EVIDENCE
CONFISSION
UNIT.**

SUPERHEROES.

**RADIATION,
ALIEN SUBSTANCES...**
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF
THINGS IN YOUR SYSTEM
INTERACTING NEGATIVELY
IN WAYS WE DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

YOU MAY WANT
TO CONSIDER ONE OF
THESE **CLASS-ACTION
METAHUMAN EXPOSURE
LAWSUITS...**

**SUPERHEROES ARE
GOING TO KILL ME
AND I'M GOING TO
LET LAWYERS TRY
TO MAKE THINGS
RIGHT? PLEASE.**

WE CAN MAKE
YOU AS COMFORTABLE
AS WE CAN IN THE COMING
MONTHS, BUT I'M AFRAID
MONTHS ARE **ALL** YOU
CAN EXPECT.

**NO. I WANT
MORE.**

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS?
MR. JATTS?

JUST ONE.

**HOW DO I GET
PAYBACK?**

**"THE HEART OF
THE MATTER"**

**PART 1 OF 3:
"MADNESS,
MAYHEM, &
MENTACHEM"**

ADAM BEECHEN: WRITER
RYAN BENJAMIN: PENCILLER
JOHN STANISCI: INKER
DAVID BARON: COLORIST
SWANDS: LETTERER
CHRIS CONROY: EDITOR
BATMAN Created by BOB KANE

**DC COMICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS...**

LONG AFTER THE ORIGINAL BATMAN
DISAPPEARED, TESTINGER TERRA RICHMOND
STUMBLING UPON THE RECLUSIVE BRUCE
WAYNE... AND HIS SECRETS. TEMPERED
BY PERSONAL TRAGEDY, AND GIVEN
BRUCE'S BLESSING AND GUIDANCE,
TERRA NOW FIGHTS CRIME IN THE
GOTHAM CITY OF TOMORROW AS

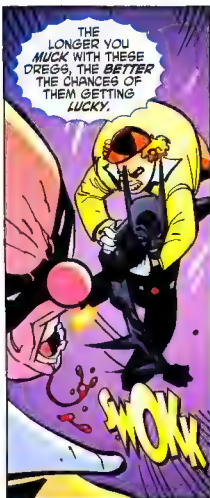
BATMAN
BEYOND

I JUST WANT TO
THANK YOU MOUTH-
BREATHERS FOR THE BEST
LAUGH I'VE HAD IN A
LONG TIME...

...I MEAN, THE
'JOKERZ' CHOOSING
THE JOKER TO WORSHIP
AS A CRIME MODEL,
I GET...

...BUT YOU
TWIPS COPYCAT
THEM BY CHOOSING
TWEEPLE-DEE AND
TWEEDLE-DUMP!

THAT'S
FREAKIN'
HILARIOUS!



THE LONGER YOU MUCK WITH THESE DREGS, THE BETTER THE CHANCES OF THEM GETTING LUCKY.

SHOCK!



ZZZZZZZZ

DON'T WORRY, THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM.

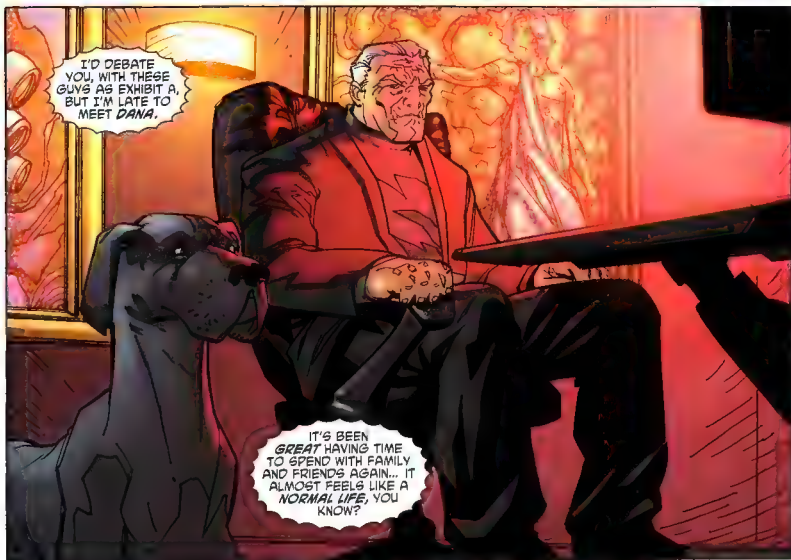
AND STOP SLAGGING ON MY GOOD TIME, WILL YA?



THESE LAST COUPLE WEEKS SINCE THAT HUSH THING... GOTHAM'S BEEN NICE AND QUIET, EXCEPT FOR THE OCCASIONAL CHUMPS LIKE THESE BOZOS.

IT'S THE ONES THAT *DON'T* KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING YOU HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR.

BOZOS LIKE THOSE CAN *STILL* DO A LOT OF DAMAGE.



I'D DEBATE YOU, WITH THESE GUYS AS EXHIBIT A, BUT I'M LATE TO MEET DANA.

IT'S BEEN GREAT HAVING TIME TO SPEND WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AGAIN... IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE A NORMAL LIFE, YOU KNOW?



NO.

I WOULDN'T KNOW THAT FEELING.

METROPOLIS. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER.

SINCE WHEN
DOES NOTED
CLOCKWATCHER
CARSON JATTS SHOW
UP ON HIS DAY
OFF?

ANNEX 3,
METAHUMAN
EVIDENCE
CONFISCATION
FACILITY.

FIRST THING
I DO WHEN I
GET MY
HANDS ON
THAT WAND...

WHATTA YOU...
SOME KINDA
DIFFERENT GUY ALL
OF A SUDDEN?
WHAT BROUGHT
THIS ON?

TOTAL
CHANGE IN BODY
CHEMISTRY?

...IS TURN THIS
IDIOT INTO
SELENIUM OR
SOMETHING.

HEY, WHATTA YOU DOING IN
THE VAULT? WE GET SOME
KINDA *MEMO* I DIDN'T
READ?

OH, YOU'LL GET
THE MEMO, HERB...

YOU'RE GONNA BE
A GOOD GUINEA
PIG FOR ME.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP-KLK

I ONLY READ THIS META-CRIMINAL'S
FILE *ONCE*, SO I DON'T REALLY
KNOW WHAT THIS THING CAN DO...

WE AIN'T
SUPPOSED TO
BE IN HERE
WITHOUT COURT
PAPERWORK,
JATTS...

...AND I WANT TO GET A SENSE OF MY **LIMITS** BEFORE I GO LOOKING UP ANY CAPES.

JATTS, THAT'S AN **UNAUTHORIZED USE** OF THE MASTER KEY, NOT TO MENTION YOUR OWN--

KIK KIK WHERE KIK

A close-up comic book panel of a man with a green pin in his nose. He has a determined, slightly pained expression. His eyes are green and looking forward. A green pin is stuck through his nostril, held by his right hand. The pin has a green ball at the top. There are two green speech bubbles: one in the top left saying "YEAH." and one in the top right saying "PAYBACK." The background is a light blue-grey.

ZZZZAAAAA!!!

EEEEAAAAA!!!

IT'S BATMAN AGAINST THE JUSTICE LEAGUE -- WITH TERRY'S FAMILY IN THE CROSSFIRE! IT ALL KICKS OFF IN BATMAN BEYOND #1. ON SALE JANUARY 5TH!

IT'S BATMAN AGAINST THE JUSTICE LEAGUE -- WITH TERRY'S FAMILY IN THE CROSSFIRE! IT ALL KICKS OFF IN **BATMAN BEYOND #1, ON SALE **JANUARY 5th!****

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!



Haha. I can't tell you how hard it is to resist opening these columns with a terrible pun every month. I just couldn't resist this week as we here at the DC offices are bustling around trying to close out what has been a truly epic 2010. As you may have heard, we are starting 2011 with a bang by putting special covers on all of our titles that highlight the iconic nature of each character. The DCU is the home of some of the most recognizable figures in the entire world, and we are proud to have them on display this January. It's a sign of great things to come next year, and for that I wanted to make certain you loyal members of the DC Nation had a chance to see every single one of them. Over the next two weeks I'll be showing groups of these covers so you can be sure not to miss any. You'll want to take special notice of the first issues of **WEIRD WORLDS** and **BATMAN BEYOND**, as well as the **STEEL** special that kicks off the ultraviolet "Reign of Doomsday" event.

Check back next week for more covers and fewer puns.

Be seeing you,

— Ian Sattler, Senior Story Editor DCU

DC NATION

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